

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for deforming a sheet material, said apparatus comprising:
 - a) a deforming roller comprising a plurality of circumferential depressions; and
 - 5 b) at least one cord in rotational engagement with said roller and adapted to press said sheet material into said circumferential depressions.
- 10 2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said circumferential depressions are formed between land areas.
3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said circumferential depressions are grooves formed between circumferential peaks.
- 15 4. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said at least one cord is a single unending cord carried on at least two guide rolls.
5. The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said land areas comprise projections adapted to aperture said sheet material.
- 20 6. The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said circumferential peaks comprise projections adapted to aperture said sheet material.
7. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a heater adapted to apply heat to said sheet material.
- 25 8. The apparatus of Claim 6 further comprising a heater adapted to apply heat to said sheet material.

9. A method for deforming a sheet material, said method comprising:
- a) providing a rotating deforming roller comprising a plurality of circumferential depressions;
 - 5 b) providing at least one cord, said cord aligned to fit within said depressions;
 - c) providing at least one sheet material;
 - d) feeding said sheet material in a first direction between said roller and said cord; and
 - e) deforming said sheet material by pressing said sheet material at least partially
 - 10 into said circumferential depressions with said cord.
10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said deformation comprises extension of said sheet material in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.
- 15 11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said circumferential depressions are grooves formed between circumferential peaks.
12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said circumferential peaks comprise projections and wherein said deformation comprises aperturing said sheet material.
- 20 13. The method of Claim 9 wherein said circumferential depressions are formed between land areas.
14. The method of Claim 9 further comprising applying heat to said sheet material.
- 25 15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said deformation comprises forming topographical features in said sheet material.

16. The method of Claim 9 wherein said sheet material comprises a nonwoven web material.
- 5 17. The method of Claim 9 wherein said sheet material comprises a film material.
18. The method of Claim 10 wherein said sheet material comprises a nonwoven web material.
- 10 19. The method of Claim 10 wherein said sheet material comprises a film material.
20. The method of Claim 10 wherein said sheet material comprises a laminate comprising a nonwoven web material and a film material.